



# Iowa Department of Human Services

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## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1766-MC-FFS

**DATE:** February 17, 2017

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Hospice Providers

**APPLIES TO:** Managed Care, Fee-for-Service

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Two-Tiered Hospice Payment and Service Intensity Add-on (SIA)

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

Pursuant to the final hospice rule published on August 6, 2015, payment for hospice care has changed to a two-tiered payment and a new service called Service Intensity Add-on (SIA) payment has been added.

Effective for hospice services with dates of service on or after January 1, 2016, a hospice day billed at the Routine Hospice Care (RHC) level of care will be paid one of two RHC rates based on the following:

1. The day is billed as a RHC level of care.
2. If the day occurs during the first 60 days, the RHC rate will be equal to the RHC "High" rate.
3. If the day occurs during days 61 or later, the RHC rate will be equal to the RHC "Low" rate.
4. For a hospice patient who is discharged and readmitted to hospice within 60 days of that discharge, their prior hospice days will continue to follow the patient in determining the High or Low rate.
5. For a hospice patient who has been discharged from hospice care for more than 60 days, a new period of hospice will apply and be paid at the High rate.

These rates are calculated on the annual hospice rates established under Medicare. Rates for hospice physicians are not increased under this provision.

Effective for hospice service with dates of service on or after January 1, 2016, a hospice claim will be eligible for a SIA payment if the following criteria are met:

1. The day is billed as a RHC level of care day;
2. The day occurs during the last seven days of life (and the member is discharged as deceased, (field 17 on the UB-04 claim form)  
40 Expired at home  
41 Expired in a medical facility  
42 Expired place unknown

3. Direct patient care is provided by a Registered Nurse (RN) or social worker that day for at least 15 minutes and up to four hours total; and
4. The service is not provided in a skilled nursing facility or nursing facility.
5. The service is not provided by a social worker via telephone.

The billing codes to use for the SIA are G0299 for the RN and G0155 for the social worker. There is no SIA payment for the first two days of RHC.

The IME will retroactively process claims back to January 1, 2016. Providers wanting payment for the SIA should resubmit claims with the proper billing codes.

See attachment for the rates effective January 1, 2016.

If you have questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or email at [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us).